BENGALURU, SATURDAY, JUNE 21, 2025 www.Bangaloremirror.com 16 Pages PRICE ₹4

Bangalore Mirror ON SATURDAY

TEMP Max 28 | Min 21 | Humidity 63% Cloudy and breezy Sensex 82,408 | Nifty 25,112 | Gold 98,776 | Silver 1,06,325 | Dollar 86.58 | Euro 99.72 | GBP 116.87

Victims of crimes reveal ordeal they have to go through just to have the police listen to them — one told to 'just change SIM card' in morphed photos case and senior citizen asked to get videos/photos of the crime

SYSTEM OF A DOWN

Tops cops stress on victim-centric approach, but we have a long way to go

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Despite repeated emphasis by senior police officials on a victim-centric approach, multiple incidents recently in the city show a grim reality as victims continue to face apathy, red tape, and indifference at police stations.

In the first week of June, a 78-year-old retired central government officer M Chandrashekhar was extorted in broad daylight on MG Road in a fake accident scam. He was forced to withdraw money from a bank and hand over ₹5,500 to the accused, who allegedly faked a road accident, claimed injury to his brother, and then forcefully accompanied Chandrashekhar to an ATM.

Despite his repeated appeals, bystanders and even bank staff refused to help. "I signalled to the bank staff for help, but they refused. I was scared to even take out my phone," Chandrashekhar said.

The worst came after the ordeal -- When he went to Ashok Nagar police station to file a complaint, he was asked to get photos and videos of the accused. The bank denied him CCTV footage, citing procedural constraints. The police then suggested he file an accident case. "Finding parking, walking into a station, and not being heard, it all makes you give up," he said. It was only after a friend abroad identified the accused through a 2017 media report that Chandrashekhar convinced the police to register an FIR, 12 days after the incident and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10 »

DODGE THE BRANCH

Falling trees have claimed 4 lives in city, 1,200 complaints pour in

PAGE 7

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A New Era of Lightweight Fashion for Men

Monte Carlo unveils its Air Tech Series for the modern, style-conscious man

Step into a new season of elevated comfort and performance with the launch of the Air Tech Series—a fresh take on everyday menswear designed to meet the dynamic demands of today's lifestyle. Engineered for movement and style, this collection brings together innovation, breathability, and a refined aesthetic in one seamless experience.

Developed by Monte Carlo, a trusted name in contemporary fashion, the Air Tech Series introduces a line of ultra-light polo T-shirts, trousers, denim, and shirts that combine cutting-edge fabric technology with effortless sophistication. Whether you're powering through a busy workday or enjoying a laid-back weekend, this collection ensures you look sharp while staying cool and comfortable.

Lightweight Polos Designed to Move With You

At the core of the collection is the Air Tech Polo T-shirt, crafted using Monte Carlo's signature Ultra Light engineered fabric. These polos are ultra-breathable, moisture-wicking, and wrinkle-resistant—tailored for the man who is always on the move.

Denim & Trousers Reinvented

The innovation extends to bottoms with the introduction of Air Tech lightweight denim and trousers. Designed for all-day wear, these pieces blend the timeless appeal of classic cuts with breathable fabrics that offer enhanced mobility and all-season comfort. Available in a range of fits from slim to relaxed, they redefine smart casual dressing for the modern man.

The Classic Summer Shirt, Upgraded

Rounding out the collection is the 60s Fine Count Poplin Shirt, made from high-quality cotton for a breathable, crisp feel. With its smooth finish, tailored fit, and wrinkle-resistant construction, this shirt transitions effortlessly from work to weekend, making it a must-have for summer wardrobes.

Style Palette Highlights

- **Mauve with linear texture – refined and understated**
- **Slate grey with sporty shield branding – sleek and functional**
- **Brick red with tonal checks – casual with character**
- **Jet black with contrast collar – bold and modern**
- **Deep navy with structured stripes – classic and versatile**

Experience fashion engineered for comfort.

Visit Monte Carlo exclusive stores and leading multi-brand outlets across India to explore the Air Tech Series and discover a new benchmark in style and performance.

Key Features

- **Air Tech Fabrication:** Advanced lightweight fabric keeps you dry and at ease all day.
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THINGS TO DO

01 Musical evening

Windmills is presenting 'A Carnatic Quartet', an evocative evening of classical music curated by renowned violinist Shreya Devnath, bringing together four exceptional artistes and two rare instrumental pairings that explore the vast sonic landscape of the Carnatic tradition.
Where: Windmills, Whitefield;
When: June 20 and 21, 9.30 pm

02 Pose off

On the occasion of World Yoga Day, Trilife Hospital, in collaboration with Attitude In Reflection Studio and Little Stars Academy, invites individuals of all age groups to register for a unique Yoga Competition and Quiz.
Where: Flormont World School, Ramamurthy Nagar;
When: June 21, 6.15 am to 9 am

03 Divine facets

'The Goddess', a classical dance performance, will be presenting three compositions that explore the forms of different goddesses.
Where: Prestige Centre for Performing Arts, Konanakunte;
When: June 21, 6 pm

04 Eco echo

The 5th edition of India Green Energy Expo is being held with the aim of serving as a comprehensive platform for stakeholders in the renewable energy ecosystem. This year's edition will highlight the critical role of renewable energy in accelerating electrification and supporting India's Net Zero targets.
Where: Bengaluru International Exhibition Centre, Madavara;
When: June 19 to 21, 10 am to 5.30 pm

05 Melody magic

On the occasion of World Music Day, Samarthanam Trust for the Disabled is launching the Samarthanam Sisters — a gifted singing duo comprising Anusha and Vasundhara, two visually impaired artists specialised in Hindustani Classical.
Where: White Petals, Palace Ground;
When: June 21, 6.30 pm

B'luru set to get quadruple lines

As per Divisional Railway Manager, detailed reports for projects are expected to be ready in upcoming months

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The project aims to enhance rail capacity and ease commuter pressure

Train travel from Bengaluru to nearby cities is likely to become faster and more efficient in the near future, as the South Western Railway plans to introduce quadruple railway lines on key routes like Bengaluru-Jolarpettai, Bengaluru-Mysuru and Bengaluru-Tumakuru. At present, no route from Bengaluru has four tracks. However, work on the Bengaluru Cantonment–Whitefield quadrupling project — covering a stretch of 38 kilometers — is making steady progress. Major components such as earthwork, retaining walls, and bridge extensions have already been completed. The project, with an estimated cost of Rs 492.87 crore and fully funded by the Railways, is poised to enhance rail capacity and ease congestion for daily commuters.

Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) of Bengaluru Division Ashutosh Kumar Singh said that the railways have now decided to quadruple the busy Bengaluru–Mysuru railway line at an estimated cost of Rs 6,850 crore. The Detailed Project Report (DPR) for this project is expected to be submitted by the end of the year. Similarly, the Bengaluru–Tumakuru line is proposed to be upgraded to a quadruple track at a cost of Rs 3,500 crore, with the DPR set for submission in August. Additionally, the revised DPR for the Yelahanka–Devanahalli doubling project, pegged at Rs 455 crore, has already been submitted. A traffic justification report for this route is also expected next month.

The revised DPR for the Yelahanka–Devanahalli doubling project, pegged at Rs 455 crore, has already been submitted

Other projects in the pipeline include the Devanahalli–Kolar–Bangarapet doubling project, for which the DPR will be ready by November. The Whitefield–Bangarapet route, proposed as a quadruple line, saw a Rs 1,481 crore DPR submitted in May. Likewise, the Baiyappanahalli–Hosur quadrupling proposal, with an estimated cost of Rs 2,550.71 crore, has been completed and submitted following a survey.

Singh said that the Chikkabanavara–Kunigal–Hassan doubling project is under DPR preparation, and is expected to cost around Rs 4,150 crore, with submission planned by August. The Bangarapet–Jolarpettai quadrupling project, estimated at Rs 3,600 crore, will have its DPR submitted by July. Final surveys are completed for Yelahanka–Devanahalli (23.7 km), Devanahalli–Kolar–Bangarapet (125 km), Whitefield–Bangarapet (47 km), Baiyappanahalli–Hosur (48.5 km), Bengaluru–Tumakuru (70 km), Chikkabanavara–Kunigal–Hassan (166 km), Bengaluru–Mysuru (137 km), and Bangarapet–Jolarpettai (72 km). "Additionally, a DPR is being prepared for the proposed 288-km Bengaluru Circular Railway, which aims to ease commuter pressure across the city. The project will be executed in seven phases, with the complete DPR expected to be ready and submitted to the Railway Board by August 2025," said Singh.

1 lakh books to be distributed today

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The volunteers of Raksha Foundation have organised the distribution of one lakh notebooks amongst 10,000 students from government schools in the city on Saturday.

Raksha Foundation has been undertaking such activities not only in Bengaluru, but also in district headquarters across the state, for over 13 years now.

"We have made arrangements to distribute one lakh notebooks amongst the 10,000 students from government schools in the city. The students will gather at Shalini Ground, Jayanagar 5th Block," said MLA CK Ramamurthy, founder of Raksha Foundation.

The notebooks, kept ready for distribution

He said that the volunteers of Raksha Foundation plan to organise more such drives shortly.

He highlighted that around 100 students who scored high marks in SSLC and PUC exams are being felicitated by the organisation. "We have also made arrangements to provide laptops for bright students from economically weaker families. We have decided to donate Rs 2 lakh to Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences and Research to help children from poor families who need to undergo cardiac surgeries. It will be a great help for parents who have no money for the treatment of their children," he added.

HC Nagarathna Ramamurthy, a member of Raksha Foundation, said that she was delighted to organise the distribution of the notebooks for government school students. "The volunteers of Raksha Foundation visit government and private schools to know the requirement of notebooks for needy students," she explained, adding that they also collect data on students who score good marks in SSLC and PUC examinations. "I, as a woman member, always want to give priority to girl students from poor families. I have been advising the President of Raksha Foundation to organise health camps at government schools for the benefit of girls," she said.

Metro services partially curtailed on Purple Line

The Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) has announced a temporary suspension of services on a section of the Purple Line due to scheduled maintenance work. On Sunday, metro operations between MG Road and Baiyappanahalli will be partially curtailed from 7 am to 9 am, as BMRCL undertakes maintenance between Halasuru and Trinity stations. Meanwhile, services on other stretches of the Purple Line—Challaghatta to MG Road and Baiyappanahalli to Whitefield (Kadugodi)—will run as per the regular schedule. Operations on the Green Line (Madavara to Silk Institute) will also remain unaffected. Normal services on the MG Road–Baiyappanahalli stretch will resume post 9 am, said a release. **–BMB**

PU lecturers warn of boycott

Government Pre-University College lecturers have issued a stern warning to boycott the upcoming PU Exam 3 valuation process if pending honorariums for previous work are not released immediately. Despite the completion of valuation work for the PU Exam 1 nearly three months ago, the department is yet to disburse the promised remuneration, prompting strong objections from the Karnataka Government PU College Lecturers' Association.

Association President AH Ningegowda met with officials of the PU Examination Board, and on Thursday, urged them to release the pending honorarium without any delay. Ningegowda said, "The SSLC Board promptly releases payments post-valuation. However, the same has not been followed for PU exams. This discrimination is unacceptable." He further demanded that the appointment of chief and deputy chief evaluators be based on service seniority. "It is inappropriate to assign junior lecturers as chief examiners while seniors are made assistants. Such irregularities must be corrected immediately," he said. He revealed that the PU Department had released Rs 78 lakh to the School Examination and Evaluation Board over a month ago for examination-related activities. However, lecturers and principals involved in the process are yet to receive any honorarium or allowances. The association has demanded that payments for the 2025 PU Exam 1 and 2, and all three exams conducted in 2024, be settled before the valuation of PU Exam 3 begins. If not, lecturers have threatened to boycott the valuation work. "The department must act swiftly to resolve these dues or face disruption during the valuation of PU Exam 3," Ningegowda warned. **–BMB**

Bike taxi ban fuels B'luru's traffic chaos

Experts warn ban strains infrastructure, hampers last-mile connectivity, and lacks viable alternatives

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With the Karnataka High Court's statewide ban on bike taxis taking effect earlier this month, citizens are now grappling with worsening traffic snarls and longer commute times. Many commuters and mobility experts are linking the mounting congestion to the absence of bike taxis, which once served as a quick and efficient mode of transport through the city's notoriously packed roads.

On social media, frustration is boiling over. A user named Sameer Shisodia posted, "Not even 8 am and Bengaluru is choked already. Thanks to the bus stops and bike lanes. This is no way to create a crisis." His remarks struck a chord with hundreds of others who echoed concerns about how the ban has disrupted daily commuting, especially during peak hours.

Another user echoed the same. "Traffic seems to have increased 5 times ever since they stopped bike taxis in Bangalore." Meanwhile, one user wrote, "You block bike taxis, with no proper roads, dug-up and narrow lanes, missing U-turns, zero metro access in many areas, limited public buses, and no footpaths to walk. Bengaluru traffic has increased with everyone taking out their car or booking an auto."

Once a popular mode of last-mile connectivity, bike taxis like those operated through Ola, Uber, and Rapido were particularly useful for solo commuters and office-goers. With their removal, many citizens are now forced to depend on autos or cabs, both more expensive and less nimble in traffic. For those unwilling or unable to pay premium fares, public buses remain the only option, further crowding already busy bus stops and stretches near Metro stations.

A user updated a post stating, " Definitely auto/sharing must be allowed. It is efficient, provides safe rides at cheaper rates than bike taxi fares and also improves driver earnings. It was being offered earlier, but has been discontinued now. Aggregators must push for it as bike taxis are banned, but it also questions the comfort of a passenger to share."

Traffic experts on anonymity agree that removing bike taxis without an immediate and viable alternative only adds pressure to Bengaluru's already crumbling road infrastructure. Meanwhile, Urban mobility says, "A large portion of urban mobility relies on these services. Without them, the city has simply shifted more people into cars and autos, which occupy more space and slow down traffic flow."

Transport expert MN Shreehari explains that if there is no policy in place, it must be respected. However, he emphasised that the bike taxi debate isn't just about traffic concerns; it also involves issues of women's safety. "In foreign countries, women can take a taxi even at 1 am without fear, but here in India, that sense of safety is still lacking. Whether it's a cab or an auto, women aren't completely safe," he said. Shreehari added that if a driver is responsible, follows the rules, and ensures passenger safety, there would be no issue. He stressed the importance of accountability and the need to prioritise commuter safety, from obeying traffic laws to ensuring a secure drop-off.

State plans crowd control

In response to the stampede near Chinnaswamy Stadium on June 4, the Karnataka government has initiated discussions on a draft bill aimed at regulating crowd management at large public gatherings. The proposed legislation, titled the Karnataka Crowd Control (Regulation of Public Gatherings and Assembly Venues) Bill, 2025, will be formally introduced in the next cabinet meeting, with plans to secure cabinet approval before being tabled in the upcoming monsoon session of the state legislature.

Penalties proposed

The draft proposes stringent penalties for violations. Offenders could face up to three years of imprisonment and a fine of up to 5 lakh for failing to adhere to crowd control regulations. It further outlines specific requirements for organising commercial events such as sports, circuses, or other large gatherings. Failure to apply for prior permission, inability to manage crowds effectively, or any direct or indirect role in causing injury or death due to overcrowding could lead to consequences. **–BMB**

Wildlife smuggler nabbed at airport

Customs officials at Kempegowda International Airport busted yet another international wildlife smuggling racket on Thursday and arrested a man for attempting to sneak in 54 green iguanas, a common spotted cuscus, and two green finch birds in a check-in bag from Bangkok.

The accused, identified as Ahmed Jasim from Tamil Nadu, was intercepted immediately after landing and while trying to get the baggage cleared. Officials said the animals were concealed inside carton boxes camouflaged with chocolates, biscuits, and other eatables.

Preliminary investigation revealed that Jasim was acting as a carrier and was instructed to hand over the bag to a contact waiting outside the airport upon receiving a pre-decided code word confirmation.

The seized wildlife was quarantined and deported back to Thailand on Friday, while Jasim was booked under the Wildlife (Protection) Act and remanded to judicial custody.

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Green median: Compost will help create mini gardens

BMRCL uses compost to create soil-less gardens at medians; based on pilot project's success, over 195 such gardens are planned between HSR Layout and Bellandur

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Making of soil-less gardens under metro viaducts

As part of a green initiative to tackle waste management challenges and improve urban aesthetics, the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) has started developing compost-based "soil-less median gardens" beneath metro viaducts across the city.

Partnering with two entities, BMRCL is constructing over 1,000 such medians along Phase 2 of the metro corridor. Each median could utilise up to 30 metric tonnes of compost, converting organic waste into lush greenery. A pilot garden, 100 metre in length, has already been completed near Manjunathnagar Metro Station using more than 20 metric tonnes of compost. Following its success, 195 such gardens are planned along a 5 km stretch between HSR Layout and Bellandur, with work already underway on 12 medians.

A pilot garden, 100 metre in length, has already been completed near Manjunathnagar Metro Station using more than 20 metric tonnes of compost

A private entity has sourced around 600 cubic metre of natural compost and garden waste from Sarjapur to support the effort. An official explained that only plants growing up to 2 to 6 feet are being cultivated in these gardens to withstand wind pressure and reduce water consumption.

Tough, evergreen species are preferred, and no traditional soil is used—only compost and organic waste from residential complexes and fallen leaves.

"Getting fertile soil in an urban setup is difficult. By using compost instead, we're creating sustainable green spaces," said the official. Work is typically carried out from midnight to 5.30 am due to heavy traffic along the road, with three to four workers engaged daily. Once constructed, gardens are assigned caretakers.

A BMRCL official urged corporate entities to contribute to this greening initiative through their CSR funds by sponsoring ornamental plants, beautifying metro pillars, and ensuring long-term upkeep. "This is a small but meaningful step toward making Bengaluru cleaner, greener, and more beautiful," the official added.

Trees to be free of concrete traps

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Concrete-choked roots make trees prone to collapse during storms

In a major step to protect the city's trees and promote urban ecological health, Special Commissioner of the Forest, Environment, and Climate Change Management Division, Mr Gehlot, has issued a directive to immediately remove all concrete, stones, and blocks within a one-meter radius around tree bases along roads in Bengaluru. The order comes in response to growing concern over the declining health of trees due to restricted airflow and water seepage caused by concrete and interlocking paver blocks that have sealed tree bases. Many roadside trees are now encased in concrete, asphalt, or paved footpaths, stifling their root systems and making them vulnerable to falling during heavy rains or strong winds — resulting in loss of life and property.

To prevent such incidents and ensure the longevity of urban trees, the BBMP has instructed that pavements and roads be designed to allow at least one meter of open, breathable space around the base of each tree. This area should be levelled with soil and, wherever possible, planted with grass. Furthermore, the practice of concreting the edges of road medians — where trees are often planted — should be discontinued. In line with the directives issued by the National Green Tribunal (NGT), all concrete, stone, and cement blocks within a minimum radius of one meter around tree trunks on roads and footpaths must be removed with immediate effect. On narrow roads, where space is limited, officials have been advised to avoid asphalting or covering more than one square meter around any tree.

Yelahanka flyover deadline set for December 2025

After years of delay, officials told to finish remaining 40% by December 2025; footpath, public safety fixes also ordered

The long delayed integrated flyover at Yelahanka has tested the patience of motorists. Now, the BBMP has set December 2025 as the deadline for completion of works. BBMP Chief Commissioner Maheshwar Rao has directed officials to complete the ongoing flyover construction on Doddaballapur Main Road in Yelahanka Suburb by the end of December 2025. During an inspection near Major Sandeep Unnikrishnan Main Road in Yelahanka Zone, he noted that 60% of the 2-km long flyover has been completed and instructed both officials and contractors to ensure the remaining work is finished within the stipulated timeline. The Commissioner also inspected the pedestrian walkway along Major Sandeep Unnikrishnan Road and pointed out sections where the path had collapsed, posing a danger to public movement. He ordered immediate repair works, including laying new curb stones and fixing the damaged stretches. He raised concern over low-hanging iron rods near a BESCOM transformer pole that could hinder pedestrian safety and directed BESCOM officials to rectify the issue immediately. **-BMB**

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Garbage neglect
HSR Layout

Even with residents paying garbage cess and taxes, waste continues to pile up openly on 17th Main Road in HSR Layout, highlighting serious lapses in civic maintenance.

Road risk
Kannamangala

Repeated appeals have gone unheard as Kannamangala Main Road, particularly the stretch towards Whitefield, still lacks speed humps. Timely action by authorities could prevent accidents like the one seen in the video.

Tree trouble
Brunton

Two days after BBMP cut a fallen tree on Brunton Cross Road, the trimmed branches still lie on the road and in front of houses, despite repeated removal requests from residents.

Pruning delay costs city as tree falls turn deadly

Falling trees kill four in Bengaluru, prompting government drive to prune risky branches as over 1,200 hazard complaints pour in

Sanjana CS
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

At least four people have lost their lives in Bengaluru in recent weeks due to falling trees. In one case, a pillion rider was killed when a tree branch fell on them during a rain spell. In another case, a biker named Akshay Kumar died after a branch struck his head while riding, reportedly causing 8 to 10 fractures in his skull. After the incident, Karnataka Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre launched a citywide drive to remove dangerous trees and concrete around them.

Akshay Kumar (24) died five days after a tree branch fell on him while he was riding his two-wheeler in Banashankari, causing him to crash into a parked car. The incident occurred last Sunday, and he died on Thursday at a private hospital in Jayanagar. His parents have alleged BBMP negligence and filed a complaint. An FIR has been registered against BBMP Forest officials.

BBMP data reveals 800+ complaints over weak and dangling branches

On the evening of May 1, 45-year-old Mahesh, an autorickshaw driver from Ittamadu, died after a tree fell on his vehicle on Kathriguppe Main Road in Banashankari. According to preliminary findings by Bengaluru City Police, the tree suddenly toppled and crushed the autorickshaw.

This incident is part of a larger pattern of tree falls in Bengaluru during recent rains, raising concerns about the preparedness of civic authorities for the monsoon season. Earlier, on March 22, three-year-old Raksha succumbed to her injuries after a tree collapsed on the two-wheeler she was riding pillion on with her father.

Another case involved the death of a 48-year-old man and serious injuries to another after a tree fell on their moving bike in Koramangala during strong winds on May 22. CCTV footage captured the moment the tree collapsed, striking the two-wheeler and throwing both rider and pillion to the ground.

BBMP data reveals that between May 1 and May 21, the forest department received 1,257 complaints related to tree hazards. Of these, around 400 were for the removal of dry or diseased trees, while approximately 841 complaints were about weak or dangling branches

"With monsoons bringing strong winds and heavy rains, it is critical that the Forest Department proactively addresses the risk of falling branches before the incidents. We urge the government to consider deploying the Fire Department, which has the manpower and equipment to manage such emergencies. Before any more incidents occur again, we need a permanent, coordinated solution. We request the Forest and Environment Minister, Eshwar Khandre, to take urgent note and mobilise necessary resources to prevent further loss of life," says Vinod Jacob, Namma Bengaluru Foundation.

> **We urge government to consider deploying Fire Department, to manage such emergencies** –Vinod Jacob, Namma Bengaluru Foundation

After phone bust, prison sweep nets cash, drugs

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The recent case of a prison counsellor caught smuggling a mobile phone for a murder accused has once again reignited long-standing concerns over mobile phones being freely used inside Bengaluru's high-security Central Prison at Parappana Agrahara, despite the installation of state-of-the-art signal jammers.

The incident came to light on June 13, when Navyashree (33), a contract-based psychologist posted in the prison's hospital division, was intercepted during routine frisking. The Karnataka State Industrial Security Force (KSISF) personnel detected a mobile phone allegedly concealed in her private parts using a Hand-Held Metal Detector (HHMD). Investigations revealed the phone was meant for an undertrial booked in a murder case, with whom she had reportedly developed a close connection.

A complaint filed by Superintendent Karna B Kshathri led to an FIR being registered at the Parappana Agrahara Police Station under Section 323 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and Section 42 of the Karnataka Prisons (Amendment) Act. Another counsellor working in the same division is also under scrutiny for possible involvement in aiding inmate communication and financial arrangements.

Just three days later, on June 16, officers of the Central Crime Branch (CCB) conducted a surprise operation inside the prison. Raids across multiple barracks led to the seizure of a range of banned items, bidis, cigarettes, ganja-smoking pipes, sharp weapons, and ₹16,180 in cash from two inmates. The CCB has assured further legal action and internal accountability checks.

These back-to-back developments have raised serious questions about the state of prison security and insider complicity. Despite the presence of advanced jammers and layered security checks, mobile phones continue to be smuggled in, hidden in food packets, bedding, and now, allegedly by trusted staff themselves.

> **Despite jammers and security, phones are smuggled in via food, bedding**

Jammers fail, residents pay price

While phones ring inside prison cells, it's the residents in the surrounding neighbourhoods who are paying the price. The same jammers that are meant to block mobile signals inside the prison severely disrupt network reception in adjacent areas. With calls dropping and internet access unreliable, most households and businesses have been forced to install WiFi for basic communication.

Local shopkeepers and apartment associations have repeatedly raised the issue, demanding a balance between jail security and public connectivity. However, with illegal mobile use inside continuing unchecked, their complaints remain unresolved.

"For name's sake, they collect petitions. The only solution is recalibrating the jammer machines, and that can be done only in Bhopal," a resident said. "We've been told that the machines can't be recalibrated here."

Residents say the prison department and Additional Chief Secretary Tushar Girinath (former BBMP Commissioner) had agreed to send the jammers to Bhopal for recalibration, but no action has been taken so far.

Devanahalli booms as affordable housing hub near B'luru airport

Once known for its proximity to the Kempegowda International Airport, the Devanahalli region is now emerging as a sought-after destination for affordable plots, offering a mix of budget-friendly land parcels, apartments, and gated communities.

With real estate prices in core Bengaluru skyrocketing, many first-time homebuyers and investors are turning to the city's northern corridor. The demand in and around Devanahalli has surged post-COVID, driven by improved connectivity, upcoming infrastructure, and comparatively lower land costs.

"People working in and around the airport, as well as investors looking for long-term returns, are driving this market," says Ravi Subramanya, a property developer in North Bengaluru.

Government focus on the aerospace SEZ, IT parks, and the proposed Devanahalli Business Park is also expected to generate jobs and fuel housing demand. Infrastructure projects like the Namma Metro Phase 2B extension and the Peripheral Ring Road are set to enhance connectivity from Devanahalli to other key parts of the city.

"In today's market, it's rare to find well-developed plots with proper civic infrastructure, but this region still offers that promise," says Shruti Nair, a real estate analyst.

To attract buyers, developers are offering gated communities with security, parks, and essential amenities. Several projects also qualify for affordable housing loan schemes, easing financial stress for homebuyers.

"With smart city planning and airport-centric development, affordable housing in Devanahalli is becoming a sustainable real estate movement," says property buyer Devesh N.

PRAKASH VL

Urban exodus: Bengalureans embrace farm living for healthier, calmer life

In a noticeable shift post-pandemic, more and more Bengalureans are investing in farmlands and eco-gated communities away from the city's hustle.Areas like Bengaluru-Mysuru Road, Kanakapura Road, Doddaballapur, Chikkaballapur, and Magadi are seeing a steady rise in demand for farm plots, weekend homes, and nature-centric living. The craving for cleaner air, open spaces, and a slower, healthier lifestyle is drawing tech professionals, entrepreneurs, and retirees toward greener pastures.

"We were looking for a weekend getaway, but now we're building a full-time home in a green community near Kanakapura," said Ramesh Kumar, a resident of South Bengaluru. "The traffic and stress of the city pushed us to find peace elsewhere."

Developers are responding to this shift with curated farmland projects that offer fruit orchards, community farming spaces, yoga decks, and eco-friendly villas. These projects aim to blend rural charm with urban comforts, offering amenities like clear land titles, water supply, fencing, and 24/7 security.

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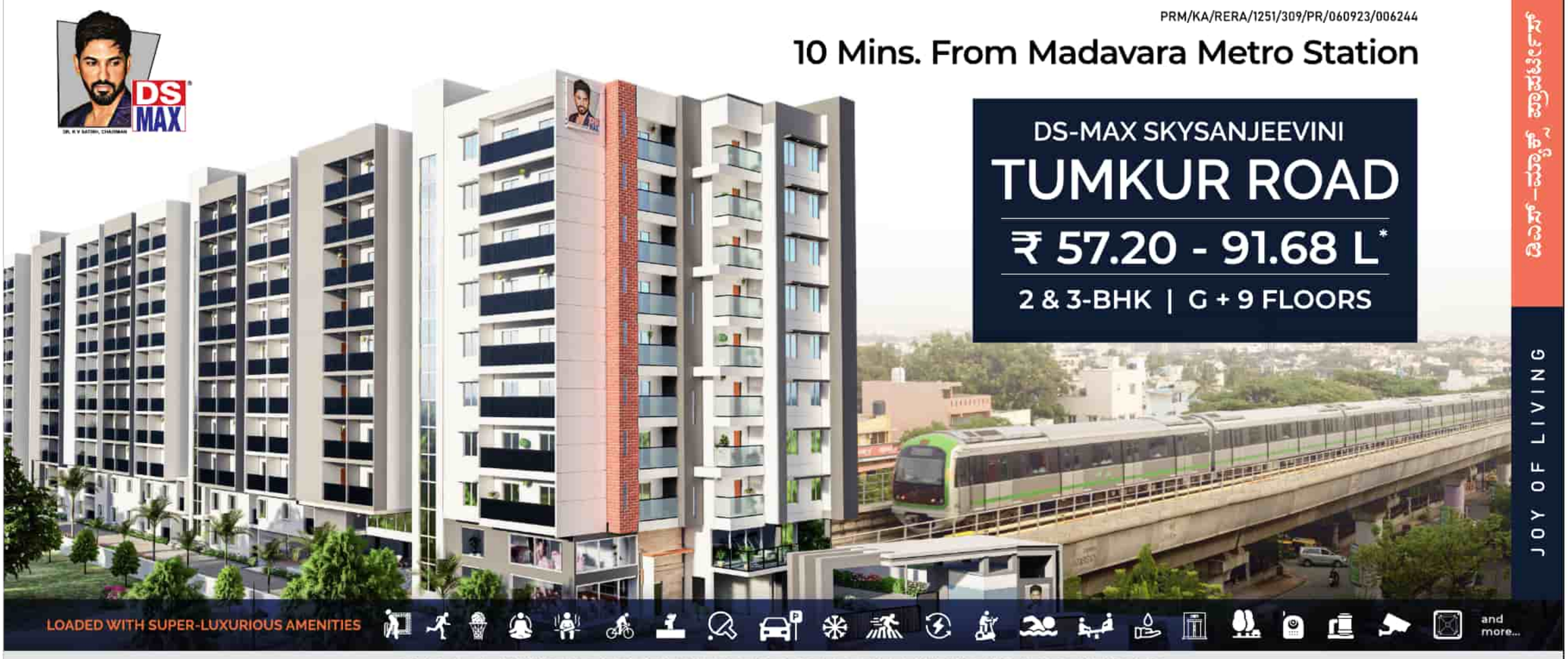

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Dasara to last 11 days, a first in 400 years?

Festival stretches to 11 days this year as rare lunar alignment causes Panchami to fall on two consecutive days; with palace and public calendars differing, govt awaits CM's decision on final Jamboo Savari date

The upcoming Dasara festival is set to be celebrated over an unusual span of 11 days, a rare occurrence believed to have happened for the first time in 400 years, due to a unique alignment of dates in the lunar calendar. The extended celebration is attributed to the occurrence of Panchami (the fifth day of the lunar fortnight) on both September 26 and 27 during the Shukla Paksha (waxing phase of the moon) of the month of Ashwija, when Dasara begins. This has extended the Navaratri period by a day, culminating with Vijayadashami on October 2, coinciding with Gandhi Jayanti.

Unusual alignment

According to tradition, Navaratri starts the day after Mahalaya Amavasya, which this year falls on September 21. Hence, Navaratri should begin on September 22. However, due to Panchami falling on two consecutive days later in the cycle, the festival stretches to 10 nights and 11 days, turning this year's celebration into a "Dasharathri" rather than the usual "Navarathri."

Such an anomaly has stirred considerable curiosity, with some questioning whether such a situation has occurred in the 400-year history of the festival.

Palace vs public calendar

Traditionally, the royal Wadiyar family of Mysuru strictly follows Navaratri rituals. However, the palace calendar and the public Panchang (almanack) often differ slightly, leading to a possible divergence between the government's and the palace's official schedules.

Decision pending

The government has not yet finalised the date for the grand Jamboo Savari procession, the iconic finale of the Mysuru Dasara celebrations. If both Chaturthi days (two fourth lunar days) are counted as one, then Maha Navami would fall on October 1, and Vijayadashami would be observed on that day. Alternatively, if Navaratri is deemed to begin on September 23, the procession could remain on October 2. Officials have said that confusion over the exact dates and interpretation of the lunar calendar will be resolved in a high-level meeting chaired by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, where a final decision is expected soon. **BMB**

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I, SHASHIDHARA BIJAI RAI R/O No 2204 1st floor kalyani nilaya 3rd block Sir M vishveshwaraiah layout behind Vijaya hospital Bengaluru-560056.Have changed my name to SHASHIDHAR BIJAI RAI vide affidavit dated: 18/06/2025 before notary B M Chandrashekar Bangalore.

I, Diya Vikram Bhandari D/O, Vikram M Bhandari R/o No.43, Jawaharlal Nehru Road, Beml Layout 5th Stage,Rajarajesh - wari Nagar, Bengaluru-560098 have changed my name to Diya Bhandari for all purposes

I, Samay Anand Kumar S/O Anand Kumar.K # No- 1280, 8th Main Road, 11th Cross, WOC Road, Mahalakshmi layout B'lore- 560086 have changed my name to Samay Anand for all purposes.

I, Savadi Shakuntala Vishwanath W/o, Panchaksharaiah Salimath R/o No 345/2,prasanna Nilaya,2nd Main, basavanagar, B'luru 560037 Have Changed My Name To Shakuntala Salimath .

I, Ravi Kumar R/o Flat no1204-A,13th Floor, Confident Leo, Block-2, near rga tech park Sarjapur Rd ,B'luru-560035 have changed my minor son's name from Rishabh Kumar Singh to Rishabh Ravi Kumar.

I Mrs.Sharmilla Prabhu W/O, Mr Sampathu R/o No 37/38 Merugu 3rd Cross Darabendre L/O Kothanur, Bengaluru, 560077 have changed my name to Mrs.Sharmila Handiganala Prabhu.

I Sharmila Vikas Dhanesha W/O, Vikas Dhanesha R/o No 55 Flat No 101 Ascent Veda Apartment Kr Road Basavanagudi Bengaluru - 560004 have changed my name to Sharmila Dhanesha.

I Vikas Arun Dhanesha S/O, Dhanesha Arun Devichand R/o No 55 Flat No 101 Ascent Veda Apartment Kr Road Basavanagudi Bengaluru - 560004 have changed my name to Vikas Dhanesha.

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HIGH COURT

MLA returns after stay

Former minister and Gangavathi MLA G Janardhan Reddy, who had been disqualified from the Karnataka Legislative Assembly following a conviction by a CBI Special Court in an illegal mining case, has now had his position reinstated.

The disqualification came after the CBI court sentenced Reddy to seven years in prison. As per protocol, his MLA status was revoked soon after the judgment. However, the Telangana High Court recently issued a stay on the CBI court's verdict. Following this development, the Karnataka Legislative Assembly Secretariat has reinstated Janardhan Reddy's MLA post.

Reddy had filed an appeal challenging the CBI court's ruling, and the High Court's interim order had paved the way for his return to the Assembly. **BMB**

Greenpeace gets relief

The Karnataka High Court has nullified the complaint and show cause notice issued by the Enforcement Directorate to NGO Greenpeace Environment Trust and Greenpeace India Society regarding alleged violations of the Foreign Exchange Management Act.

Justice Suraj Govindaraj, in his ruling, stated, "The show cause notice dated 25.02.2020 issued by respondent No 2 at Annexure-A in both the petitions is quashed."

The notice was issued for alleged contraventions of Section 6(3)(b) of the FEMA Act. The ED alleged that the petitioner established Direct Dialogue Initiative India Private Limited to receive foreign funds, bypassing their cancelled FCRA licence. The alleged violations involved US$ 38,79,457.38 (equivalent to Rs 29,26,78,538.49). **BMB**

HC notice on night raids

The Karnataka High Court has served a notice to Mangaluru's Superintendent of Police regarding night-time raids conducted at the residences of Hindu activists and RSS leaders in the district, which is known for its communal sensitivity.

On Friday, a Division Bench, with Justice Sunil Dutt presiding, issued the notice. The court warned the police department against any unlawful actions. This directive came during the hearing of a petition by UG Radha, from Mangaluru district, who contested the police's actions.Radha, an elderly citizen, stated that police officers visited her home on June 1 at night and uploaded photographs to their departmental application. When questioned, they cited orders from superior officers but failed to produce authorisation documents. **BMB**

Citizens complain of systemic apathy

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the victim hasn't heard from the police since.

It may be recalled that former Bengaluru Police Commissioner B Dayananda had issued clear instructions to police officials to take strict action against individuals harassing motorists and extorting money. As part of the directive, officers were also asked to open rowdy sheets against repeat offenders to curb such misconduct and ensure accountability.

Another case

In another such case, a private firm employee was allegedly turned away by the Parappana Agrahara police after he sought help for online blackmail involving morphed nude photographs. The victim approached the police station on Thursday but was reportedly not even heard. On being advised to dial the police helpline (112), he was redirected to the Adugodi Police Station. There, too, officials allegedly refused to register an FIR, suggesting instead that he 'just change the SIM card', citing the absence of financial loss as a reason.

In another glaring case, the Bengaluru City Railway Police are searching for Munawwar Pasha, a 34-year-old officer superintendent with the Divisional Railway Manager's office, who is accused of sexually harassing a colleague over several years. The harassment allegedly escalated after the victim rejected his marriage proposal. Despite prior complaints filed at both Basavanagudi and Cottonpet police stations, Pasha was only let off with a warning and an undertaking.

The situation took a dangerous turn last Friday when Pasha allegedly dragged the woman to the office terrace, molested her, and attempted to throw her off. She was rescued by colleagues and is now recovering from her injuries. An FIR was registered only after the incident, and the accused is currently absconding.

These incidents are not isolated, say residents of various neighbourhoods in the city. They reflect a pattern of systemic apathy that undermines the much-touted victim-centric policing approach.

Senior officials including DG & IGP MA Saleem and Bengaluru Police Commissioner Seemanth Kumar have consistently emphasised the need for making police stations more approachable and responsive. However, these latest cases suggest that until accountability is enforced and grassroots-level changes take root, the promise of a safer, victim-friendly policing system in Bengaluru will remain just that, a promise.

Indian students to fly back home

Iran lifts airspace restrictions to evacuate 1,000

In a special gesture, Iran has lifted airspace restrictions for three charter flights to evacuate about 1,000 Indian nationals, mostly students, from the Iranian city of Mashhad.

Mohammad Javad Hosseini, the deputy chief of mission at the Iranian embassy, said more evacuation flights could be operated in the coming days to bring back Indians if required.

The Indian nationals were moved to Mashad from Tehran following Israeli attacks on the Iranian capital city. The evacuation flights, to be operated by Iranian airline Mahan, are being arranged by New Delhi.

India launched Operation Sindhu on Wednesday to bring back its nationals from Iran and Israel in view of the precarious security situation arising out of Iran-Israel hostilities.

The first chartered flight carrying Indians are set to land in Delhi on Friday evening.

"We consider Indians as our own people. Iran's airspace is closed but because of this issue, we are making arrangements to open it for the safe passage of Indian nationals," Hosseini said at a media briefing. "We consider Indian nationals to be our own people. They are like Iranians," he said.

"About 1,000 Indians who were relocated from Tehran to Qom and then to Mashad will be evacuated to New Delhi on three charter flights," Hosseini said.

"The first flight will land tonight at the New Delhi airport and there will be two more flights on Saturday," he said.

The Iranian diplomat said more such flights could be arranged in the coming days if required.

Hosseini said Tehran is in close contact with the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and the Indian embassy in Tehran to ensure safe evacuation of Indian nationals.

"We are arranging for the safe passage of Indians who want to leave via air or via road through third countries, or directly from Iran," he said.

The Iranian diplomat also said that all Indians in Iran are safe. At the same time, he said a few Indian students sustained injuries after an Israeli air strike hit a students dormitory in Tehran a few days back.

A total of 110 Indian students were brought back to India on Thursday after they were moved from Iran to Armenia through land border crossing.

Hosseini said about 10,000 Indians are living in Iran and those wishing to return home are being evacuated.

The Israel-Iran military hostilities began over a week back. **-PTI**

IN FOCUS
IRAN STRIFE

People stand at the courtyard of a partially damaged mosque after a missile launched from Iran struck in Haifa, Israel, on Friday

Massive password leak

16 billion+
login credentials have been stolen in a historic breach, according to a report by Cybernews and Forbes

Platforms affected:
Credentials reportedly associated with user accounts on platforms that include but are not limited to Apple, Facebook, Google, GitHub, and Telegram, as well as government online service portals, as per a report

Fallout
Experts say that if this trove is not dealt with, it could lead to phishing attacks, identity theft, and account takeovers all over the world

How did this happen?
- The data was extracted by infostealer malware and is new and highly structured, not remnants of old breaches
- According to a Forbes report, researchers involved in an investigation that began early this year believe that several infostealers were responsible for the massive password leak
- The majority of the information was organized as a URL, followed by login credentials and a password. Its contents provide access to almost any online service one could want

(Source: ET Online)

INTHECITY

Serial vehicle thieves shift gears, switch from tractors to vans

Notorious for their unique approach to vehicle theft, a gang of thieves previously jailed for stealing tractors has now been caught targeting cars. Vidyaranyapura police arrested three individuals Umesh, Tabrez, and Jabir Khan, who had previously served time for stealing over 20 tractors in areas under Kamakshipalya police limits. After being released from jail, the gang changed their strategy and began stealing vans instead. The trio's latest theft spree came to light after multiple complaints were lodged regarding missing vans in Bengaluru's northern zones. Acting on a tip-off, Vidyaranyapura police tracked and arrested the accused, recovering six stolen Omni cars valued at ₹2 lakh. Investigations revealed that the gang sold the stolen vans in rural areas of Shivamogga and Mandya at half the market price. The buyers included street food vendors and farmers, who found the multi-purpose vehicles useful and affordable.

This party is over: Raids on 19 bars & restaurants for illegal activities

The City Police Commissioner launched a coordinated crackdown on bars and restaurants in the western zone for allegedly engaging in illegal activities involving female staff. As part of the operation, 11 special teams conducted raids across areas falling under the jurisdiction of Upparpete, Cottonpet, Kalasipalya, Cubbon Park, and Ashoknagar police stations. The raids revealed that 19 establishments were violating multiple rules. Women staff were found serving customers while wearing provocative and inappropriate clothing. Several premises lacked basic hygiene standards, failed to appoint female security guards, and had no designated smoking zones. Many were found operating beyond permitted hours. On-the-spot fines were imposed on customers violating the laws, and cases have been registered against the bar and restaurant owners. Officials confirmed these violations extended beyond police rules and involved breaches of health, excise department norms.

HEALTH TIP: Coffee on an empty stomach can cause symptoms like nausea, bloating, or acid reflux

Avoid coffee within 1 hour of waking. Let your cortisol do its job first

DO A BIRTH DANCE

Can dancing or twerking really bring on labour?

Meghan, Duchess of Sussex, is back in the news this week in a podcast discussing her viral "baby mama" video.

The video was made four years ago when she gave birth to daughter Lilibet, but only released recently. It shows the duchess in hospital, heavily pregnant, dancing and twerking to bring on labour. Her husband, Prince Harry, dances too.

She wrote on Instagram: "Both of our children were a week past their due dates […] so when spicy food, all that walking, and acupuncture didn't work – there was only one thing left to do!"

The video follows the trend of other celebrities sharing similar videos of themselves dancing while heavily pregnant.

So does the Duchess of Sussex have a point? Can dancing really bring on labour?

First, how about dancing during pregnancy?

Exercise is recommended during pregnancy, and while some higher-impact exercises may need to be moderated, it carries minimal risk for healthy women and their babies.

In fact, evidence shows regular exercise during pregnancy is associated with a variety of benefits.

Exercise can lead to a lower risk of gestational diabetes, caesarean section, the use of forceps and vacuum during birth and perinatal mental health problems, as well as quicker postpartum recovery.

While pregnant women might more often gravitate towards a brisk walk, some laps in the pool, or a group exercise class, dancing is a good option too.

The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists has even listed dance as one of the forms of exercise found to be safe and beneficial during pregnancy.

The movements of dance involve the hips and pelvic area (especially twerking) which may help the baby get into a more optimal position and tone the pelvic floor, though the evidence for this is lacking.

Choose any form of dancing you like – even belly dancing. In a small qualitative study with two pregnant women, belly dancing was found to be joyful and empowering, boosting feelings of wellbeing.

You can dance any time during pregnancy but you may need to adapt your dance moves as the pregnancy advances and your growing belly gets in the way.

If you have risk factors such as bleeding it's best to be cautious and discuss any planned dancing with your health-care provider.

Music can also play an important role in mental health, as well as reducing pain, blood pressure and heart rate. So the combination of exercise with music, in the form of dance, could have added benefits.

What about dancing to induce labour, and during labour?

Meghan is not the first woman to report dancing to induce their labour, but this is all anecdotal. There's no scientific evidence to show dancing is an effective way to bring on labour.

There is perhaps slightly more evidence suggesting benefits once labour has started.

Many women seek non-pharmacological options (not involving medications) during labour. Especially early in labour, dancing may decrease the intensity of pain and lead women to feel more satisfied and in control of their labour.

In one study, 60 women were randomly allocated to either dance during labour, or not. The dancing group had significantly lower pain scores and higher satisfaction than the control group.

And again, music can lower levels of pain in early labour. So combining relaxing music with some movement could be a good thing.

Dancing to your comfort levels during labour could be helpful due to the combination of pelvic movements, being upright, moving the body rhythmically and changing the position of the body frequently.

Evidence shows being upright and moving during labour is beneficial as it enables the pelvis to open up fully to let the baby through and reduces the length of labour.

Being upright and moving could also help transfer some pressure from the baby's head onto the cervix, which can stimulate prostaglandin, a key chemical involved in progressing labour.

It's been suggested dancing during labour could help get the baby into a better position for delivery and therefore help labour to proceed more smoothly and quickly. But ultimately we don't have reliable evidence to substantiate these hypotheses.

So, did Meghan induce her labour with dance?

It's unclear if dancing helped to induce the duchess' labour as she was in hospital and may have later had a medical or surgical induction.

Labour can be medically induced with hormones, by using a balloon-shaped catheter placed in the woman's cervix to open it up, or by breaking the bag of water around the baby.

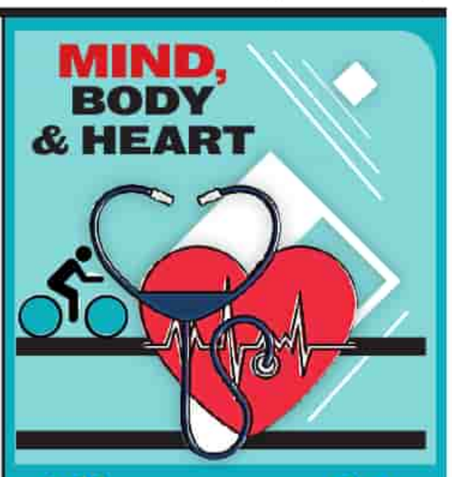
Alternatively, Meghan's labour may have eventually begun naturally without her dancing having played a role if she chose to wait another few days.

However, the joy on her face and connection and support of her husband Prince Harry is a good way to increase oxytocin, a hormone that stimulates contractions. This could have helped too.

Meghan may have been on the right track, but we need more research before we can confidently recommend dancing to bring on or during labour.

In the meantime, while there's no evidence to show dancing is effective for inducing labour, it's highly unlikely to have any downsides – and it may contribute to a more positive childbirth experience. So, if you feel inclined, I say dance away.

(By Hannah Dahlen, Western Sydney University, The Conversation)



All you need to know about...

Smoking damage to teeth

Permanent impact

A study has revealed evidence of how smoking can permanently impact teeth, revealing tell-tale signs that remain despite quitting the habit.

Parts of teeth

A tooth consists of three main hard tissues -- enamel, dentine and cementum.

Cementum, which covers the tooth root, develops characteristic 'rings' -- much like tree rings -- that grow each year as we age, researchers from Northumbria University, UK, said.

The study, published in the journal PLOS One, looked at 88 teeth, 70 of which were obtained from people taking a dental treatment involving tooth extraction, and others from archaeological remains.

Tell-tale signs

Signs of disruption to cementum rings were found in some teeth, but not in others.

Further, evidence of damage due to smoking was found in teeth from 70 per cent of ex-smokers and 33 per cent of current smokers, compared to three per cent of non-smokers.

This suggested "tell-tale signs of smoking habits" that remain even after a person has quit, the researchers said.

"Our research shows that it's possible to tell if someone was a smoker just by examining their teeth," author Edward Schwalbe, of Northumbria University, said.

Changes noted

"We found that the regular annual deposition of rings was disrupted for some individuals and realised that these disruptions were associated with current or ex-smokers, but were very rare in non-smokers," Schwalbe said.

They also found that cementum is thicker in past smokers.

This could be a result of cementum returning to normal levels when one stops smoking, leaving 'stronger' deposits on top of damaged rings and thereby thickening them -- whereas current smokers continue to have disruption to their cementum levels, the researchers said.

—PTI

'Journey sure looks good' — Actor Kunal Kemmu shared a few glimpses of his gains and said that he is not sure of what the goal will look like, but finds his journey to the perfect physique good. Kunal took to Instagram, where he shared three pictures of himself

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Brow-beating tale

Global head turner Priyanka Chopra Jonas took a trip down memory lane and recalled how she lost a "chunk" of her eyebrows while filming for her upcoming action comedy film "Head Of State."

Priyanka shared some memorable and interesting insight while speaking to Jimmy Fallon, as she commenced the promotions for her upcoming film.

She talked about how she lost a chunk of her eyebrow, Priyanka said: "The camera has a matte box, and I was supposed to roll on the floor and fall, and it was raining. And the camera was supposed to come in close to me."

"So the camera operator came in a little bit closer–I came in a little bit closer, and it took out a chunk of my eyebrow. Could have been my eye, so I was very grateful that it wasn't."

The actress revealed that she just put surgical glue on there and stuck it.

"Finished my day, because I did not want to come back and shoot in the rain again." Directed by Ilya Naishuller, the action-comedy film Heads of State stars Idris Elba, John Cena, and Priyanka Chopra Jonas in lead roles It also features Paddy Considine, Stephen Root, Carla Gugino, Jack Quaid and Sarah Niles.

The film will premiere exclusively on Prime Video on July 2, in English, Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, and Kannada languages. —IANS

Couple goals

Genelia-Riteish steal fans' hearts with love & style

Genelia and Riteish Deshmukh have always been one of Bollywood's most loved couples, and once again, they won hearts with their sweet chemistry. The couple turned heads with their appearance at the special screening of 'Sitaare Zameen Par', Genelia's film with Aamir Khan. With they set the cameras flashing with their stylish look, it was their caring gestures towards each other that truly gave major couple goals.

In a video that quickly went viral, Riteish, Genelia, and Aamir Khan were seen posing for the cameras. What touched people the most was Riteish's sweet gesture as he stepped back to let Genelia shine with her 'Sitaare Zameen Par' co-star Aamir. His respectful and supportive move impressed fans, with many calling him a "green flag."

Another popular video clip shows Riteish looking at Genelia with pure admiration and love as she posed for the photographers. He was also seen offering his hand to help her down the stairs. These sweet moments between them won over fans once again and reminded everyone why they are one of Bollywood's most loved couples.

The power couple also caught everyone's attention with their elegant outfits, twinning in matching ivory looks that were both classy and stylish. Riteish wore a white Indo-Western outfit that mixed traditional and modern fashion, while Genelia looked stunning in a cream saree with delicate embroidery and a soft shimmer. —ETimes

"What touched people the most was Riteish's sweet gesture as he stepped back to let Genelia shine

Praise and criticism welcome

Actor Diana Penty, who portrayed Mughal princess Zinat-un-Nissa Begum in the blockbuster 'Chhaava', says she welcomes both praise and criticism.

The historical action drama, which stars Vicky Kaushal as Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj, grossed over Rs 600 crore at the Indian box office, becoming the highest-grossing Hindi film of the year. Despite its commercial success, 'Chhaava' also attracted backlash for its portrayal of certain historical events.

Speaking about the mixed reactions, Diana told PTI, "It's important to have both sides so that actors or makers can do better next time. I'm a huge critic of my own work."

Diana Penty revealed that her role required minimal dialogue, which was a new challenge for her. "There was so much power in the silences, and that's not easy to do," she said. The actor focused on expressing emotions through subtle gestures and internalized feelings—something she hadn't done before. While some praised her nuanced portrayal, others were less convinced. Still, she found the experience enriching: "I looked at the positive side of it."

On the professional front, Diana Penty will be next seen in the upcoming movie 'Detective Sherdil', which is directed by Ravi Chhabriya and starring Diljit Dosanjh in the lead.

— ETimes

Ekka connects to all: Director Rohit Padaki

Director Rohit Padaki, known for handling the megaphone for Rathnan Prapancha, is excited about the release of his latest movie Ekka. It is billed as the story of one man's fall into the underworld of Bengaluru. The movie is scheduled to arrive in theatres on July 18.

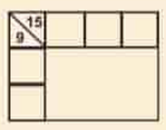
"The specialty of Ekka is that audiences can relate to and connect with it. It is the story of a common man who is compelled to face huge problems. The movie has turned out well. Yuva Rajkumar has acted well. I am very happy with his hunger for acting. The movie has all elements to entertain the audiences," said Padaki. The director said the post-production works of the movie were completed. "I direct my movies expecting them to be special for audiences. So, the movie Ekka is special," the director said.

A promotional event was held at Hyde Park Hotel where producer Karthik Gowda and others were present on Thursday. Ashwini Puneeth Rajkumar, Yuva Rajkumar also graced the occasion. Ekka is Yuva Rajkumar's second film as a hero. "I am very happy with the positive response to the song - Bangle Bangari. I am confident that audiences will enjoy watching this movie at theatres. Audiences will see me in a different avatar on the screen," said Yuva Rajkumar.

Producer Karthik Gowda said the movie was supposed to be released on June 6 but its release is rescheduled to July 6 due to some pending work. "I am of the opinion that audiences will certainly come to the theatre if the movie is good," he said.

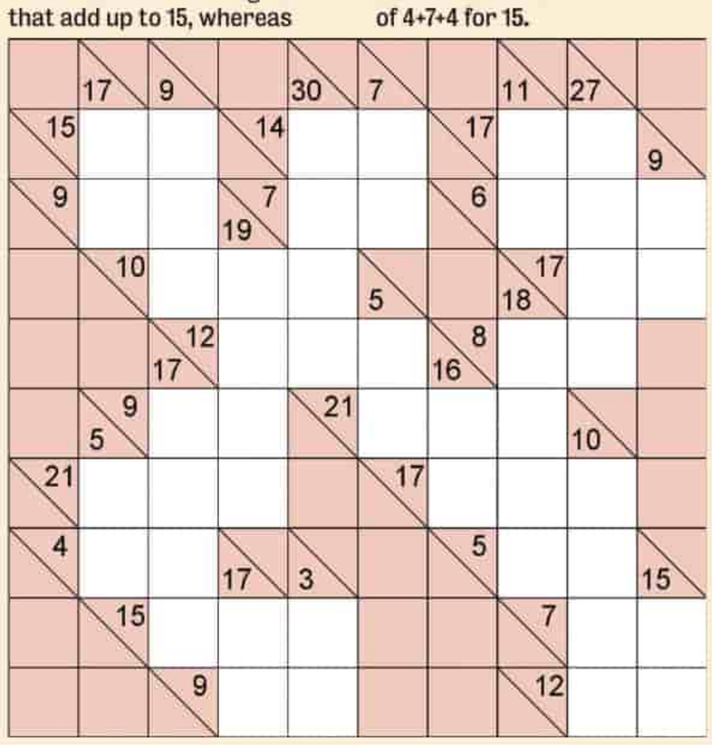
Music director Charan Raj said that he was very happy to score music for this movie. "I am thrilled with the tremendous response to the movie's audio from the music lovers," he said.

Kakuro

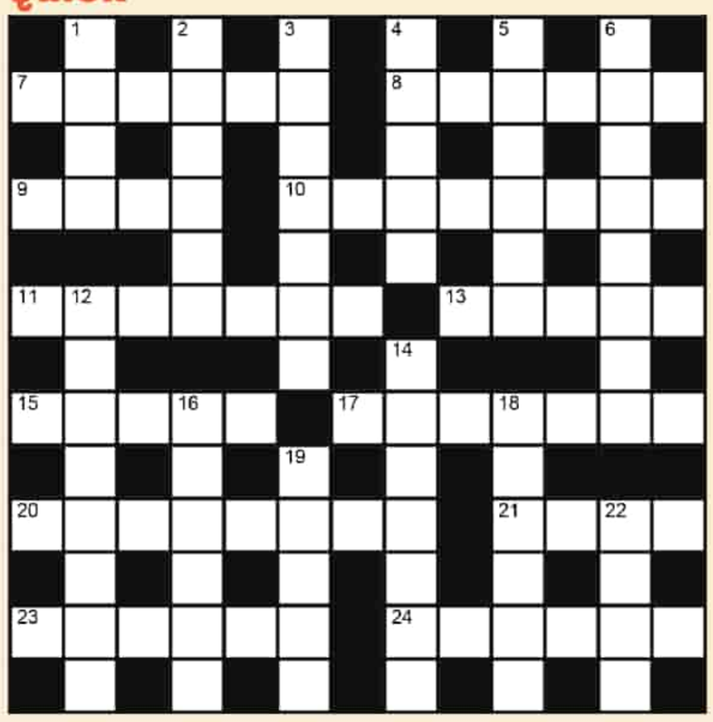


The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Nepalese porter (6)
8 Masticated (6)
9 The last word (4)
10 Christens, entitles or consecrates (8)
11 Procures (7)
13 Computer language (5)
15 Accurate bits of information (5)
17 Made or became broader (7)
20 Forward-looking or ahead (8)
21 Grant or Laurie of Hollywood (4)
23 Manage with limited resources? (4,2)
24 Keep an __ __ : act as a sentry, should we say ? (3,3)

DOWN

1 Mate (4)
2 Muse of astronomy (6)
3 Glowing (7)
4 Range (5)
5 Italian dictator ___ Mussolini (6)
6 Wife of Odysseus or Ulysses (8)
12 Governor of Karnataka from 2009 to 2014 (8)
14 Swindled (7)
16 Joined together (6)
18 Reverberates (6)
19 Exclusive news item (5)
22 Rise or ascend (2,2)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: Y EQUALS S

MRHNH'Y VT YHJNHM FLTIM YIJJHYY. OXO ETI HCHN AVTD F YIJJHYYQIW UFV DRT OXOV'M MHWW ETI FLTIM XM?

Linemaro

Jesus may have turned water into wine. But he turned you into fine

Mindchow

Make happy those who are near, and those who are far will come

Joke of the day

Sympathy: What one usually gives a friend or relative when he doesn't want to lend him money

Loop

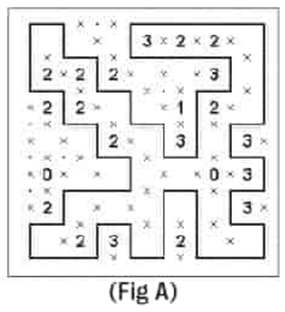
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

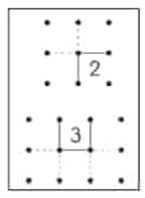
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

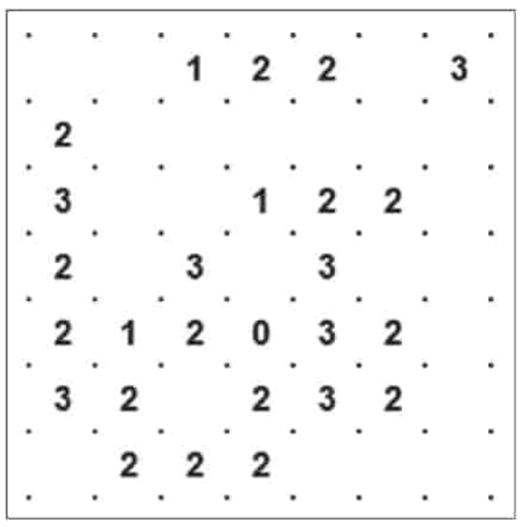
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



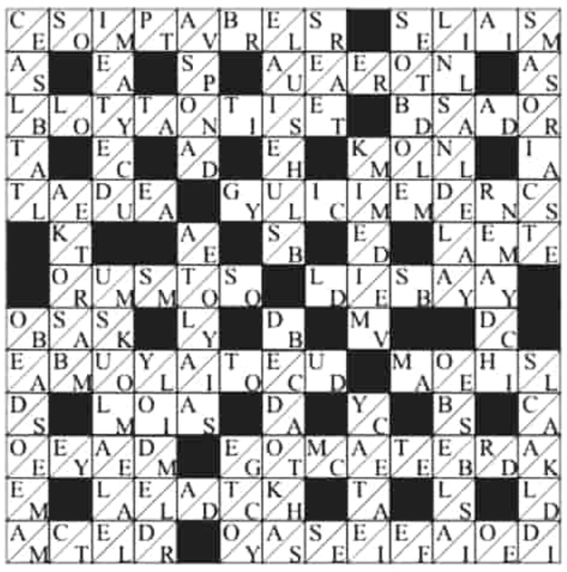
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



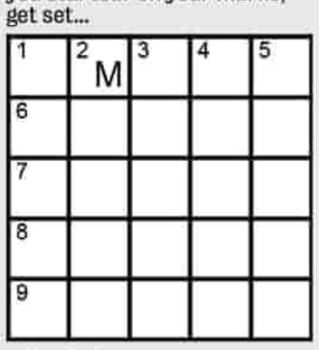
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

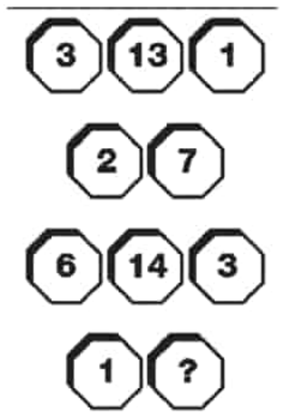
1 Mr Sik; 6 No inn; 7 U Nude; 8 Re Fog; 9 Fired

DOWN

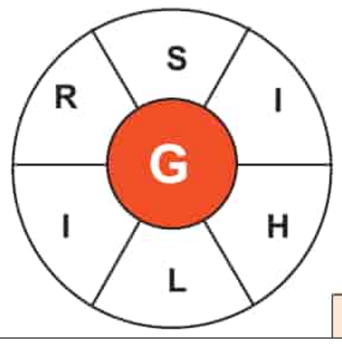
1 SF fun; 2 On rim; 3 I rind; 4 Rogue; 5 Need K

Mensapuzzle

Which number completes the puzzle?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

01 Average; **02** Good; **03** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

			5				7	
6	5	3	4				2	
		7		3	6			4
	9			5	4			6
4			3	7			9	
1			2	6		3		
	4				3	5	8	1
	8				5			

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 10

2 2 3 7

Medium = 5

4 7 7 8

Hard = 24

3 5 8 9

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

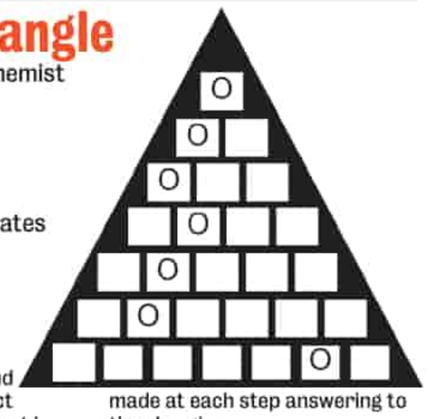
Differences: 1. Boy is moved. 2. Car tire is not showing. 3. Rock is moved. 4. Button is missing. 5. Bow on cap is reversed. 6. Nose is smaller.

Riddler

Be enjoying the singles' life most shall We are more solitary than social Of my body is constructed my home A place where "guests" do not casually roam After I am done giving it a spin Danger is lurking for venturers in The way I prey is a bit like fishin' With two legs up on the competition What am I?

Alpha triangle

1 Oxygen for the chemist
2 Conjunction
3 My and thy
4 Tart
5 Stir up
6 Scoundrels
7 Doctor who operates



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE »

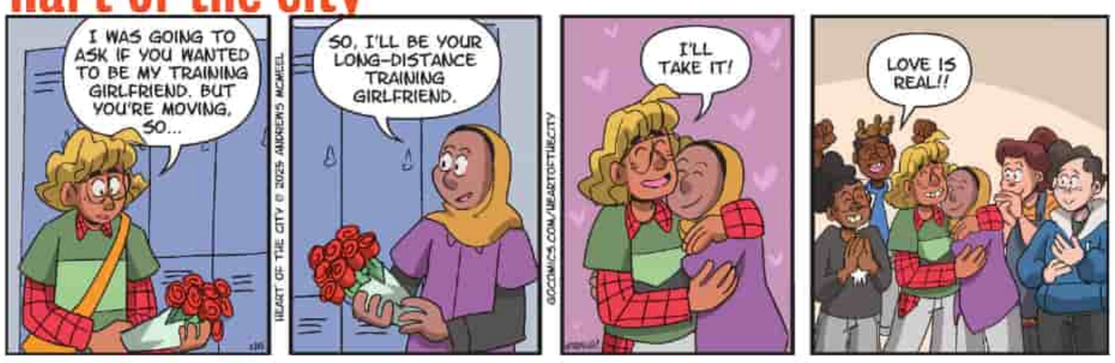
COMICS

Popeye

Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

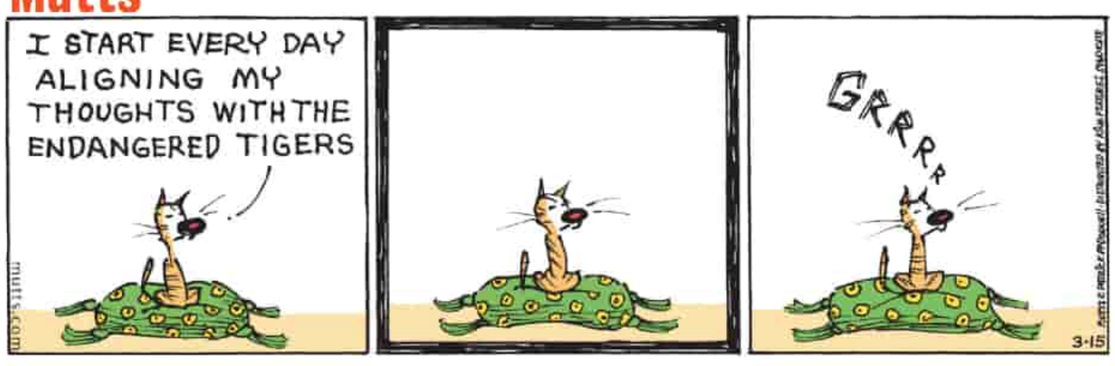
Hart of the city


I WAS GOING TO ASK IF YOU WANTED TO BE MY TRAINING GIRLFRIEND. BUT YOU'RE MOVING, SO...
SO, I'LL BE YOUR LONG-DISTANCE TRAINING GIRLFRIEND.
I'LL TAKE IT!
LOVE IS REAL!!
HEART OF THE CITY © 2025 ANDREWS MCMEEL
@COMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY

Crankshaft

SO ALL OF THE KIDS FROM CENTERVILLE MIDDLE SCHOOL TRANSFERRED TO WEST MIDDLE SCHOOL SO THEY COULD GET PAID TO ATTEND SCHOOL UNDER THE 'PAID TO ATTEND' PLAN?
ALL EXCEPT FOR ONE KID!
GEE... I WONDER WHO'S GOING TO GET THAT BUS ROUTE?
WANT TO DRIVE AROUND FOR A WHILE OR JUST HEAD STRAIGHT TO SCHOOL?
BATIUK & DAVIS tombatiuk.com/books
3-15

Mutts



WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
You may be preoccupied with domestic matters today, likely spending on household or decorative items. However, avoid unnecessary purchases, as they might create imbalance or negative energy in your space. Practice patience and choose your words wisely when interacting with others.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Your spiritual energy is high, lifting your mood and encouraging visits to religious places or exploration of the occult. A positive mindset prevails. Perfectionism may guide your actions today. Keep your deeper thoughts private unless shared with someone who truly understands you.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Restlessness and impatience may arise today. In your search for peace, you may be drawn to spiritual or mystical paths. Trust your intuition when making decisions. This is a favourable time for deep learning or research—valuable insights are likely.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
A well-placed Moon brings progress at both work and home. Financial gains from past investments may materialize. Encouragement from friends and relatives will uplift you. Your prior efforts are likely to pay off, bringing a sense of success and fulfilment.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Family matters, especially your children's health, may show improvement. You might consider investing in your children's future. Your dedication at work is noticeable, and job seekers could benefit from referrals. You may identify and overcome hidden enemies with divine support.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Your mother's health may improve today. You'll feel motivated at work and may receive recognition for your efforts. Social respect is likely to increase. However, overwork might lead to mental fatigue, possibly preventing you from attending a family event.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Satisfaction at work will help you stay focused. A short business trip may be planned, and you might visit a spiritual place for peace of mind. Guidance from a mentor or teacher could provide clarity and help align your goals.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
You may feel emotionally low or mentally clouded. Stay calm and think before speaking or acting. If traveling to recover money, proceed with caution to avoid financial loss. Avoid risky or adventurous outings. Students should concentrate on in-depth learning for success.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Domestic harmony will bring joy today. An influential person you meet could offer help in advancing your career. Your performance may lead to promotions or recognition. Legal or inheritance-related disputes could start moving toward resolution.

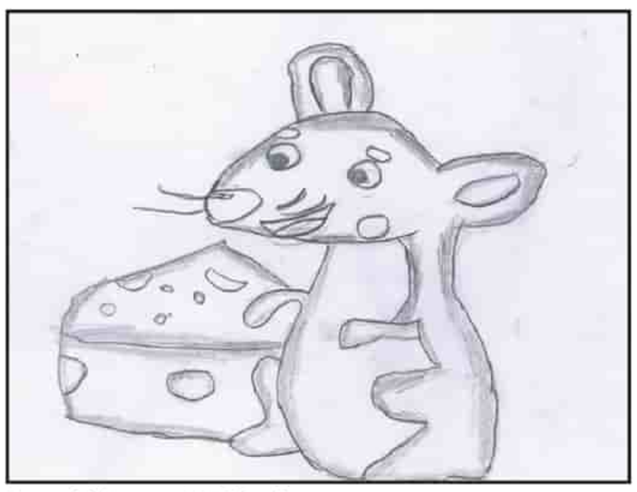
Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Your focus may be on your children today, especially planning investments for their future. Innovative partnership ideas could take shape. Financial support for business growth may come your way. Consider pursuing higher education or skill development for long-term career benefits.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Self-reflection brings clarity and confidence. You're likely to make tangible progress toward your goals. Creative pursuits—such as art, cinema, or glamour—may capture your interest. By evening, you'll feel content with your efforts, and competitors will likely remain inactive.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Helping others today will enhance your public image. Innovative ideas are likely to emerge and may be successfully applied at work, boosting your business. You'll enjoy quality time with your partner, possibly planning a getaway or engaging in outdoor activities.

KIDZONE

Likith S, SSM Public School



Mayura M, 12 years, GMP School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
-2.1-(-0.3).(1.2)
= -2.1+0.36
= -1.74

BULL'S EYE
girl, GIRLISH, sigh

FAST FIVE

S	M	I	R	K
N	I	N	O	N
U	N	D	U	E
F	O	R	G	E
F	R	I	E	D

QUOTE UNCODE
There's no secret about success. Did you ever know a successful man who didn't tell you about it?

STRIKE OUT

A	C	E	R	O	S	S	I	F	I	E	D			
M	L	E	A	C	H	T	L	L	E					
E	Y	E	D	E	T	C	E	T	E	R	A			
D	L	O	S	A	Y	B	A			C				
E	M	U	L	A	T	E	D	M	O	H	S			
O	A	K	L	D	V			C						
R	U	S	T	S	L	I	B	Y	A					
K		A	S		D	L	E	T						
L	A	D	E	G	L	I	M	M	E	R	S			
A	E	A	E	M	O	N	I							
B	O	T	A	N	I	S	T	D	A	D	O			
A	A	P	A	R	O	N	A							
C	O	M	P	A	R	E	S	S	I	A	M			

MENSA PUZZLE
4. Split the whole diagram in half, horizontally, to give two groups of 5 octagons. In each group, the central number in the top row equals the sum of the surrounding 4 numbers.

RIDDLER A Spider

QUICK

								J						
					P		D		P					
					E		D	O				M	A	K
							O		M			W		
					L		O	N	C	E	D	A	D	V
							S		E				R	
					C		D					F	A	C
				W	I	D	E	N	E	D				
					D			T				H		
				C	O	B	O	L		P		O	B	T
				N	S		E		E				I	
				B	A	P	T	I	Z	E	S			
					T		E		L			A	M	E
				C	H	E	W	E	D				N	
					O		N		N			S	H	E
					M		A		P	A			E	R
					A		M		O			U		A
					S		L		P	A		C		U

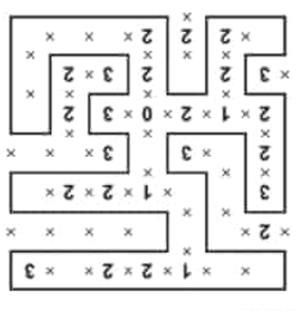
SUDOKU

3	8	9	1	4	5	7	6	2
2	4	6	7	9	3	5	8	1
1	7	5	2	6	8	3	4	9
4	6	2	3	7	1	8	9	5
5	3	8	6	2	9	4	1	7
7	9	1	8	5	4	2	3	6
8	2	7	9	3	6	1	5	4
6	5	3	4	1	7	9	2	8
9	1	4	5	8	2	6	7	3

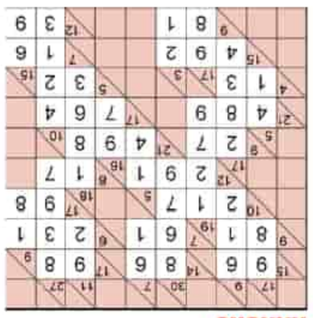
ALPHA TRIANGLE
0 , Or, Our, Sour, Rouse, Rogues, Surgeon.

GO FIGURE
Easy
3 + 7 + 2 − 2 = 10
Medium
7 / 7 + 8 − 4 = 5
Hard
3 x 9 − 8 + 5 = 24

LOOP



KAKURO



Volume No 18, Issue No 025 RNI NO:KARENG/2007/22411 Published for the Proprietors, Metropolitan Media Company Ltd by R.J. Prakashan at No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011 and printed by him at Bennett Coleman & Co Ltd., The Times of India Press, No. 9/10/11-A, 4th Main, KIADB Bommasandra Industrial Area, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore - 560 099 (Phones : Press : 080-22899999; Editorial : 080-40877666, Fax – 40877545, Registered Office: No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru - 560 011, Email : mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com Editor : Ms. Seena Menon - responsible for selection of news under PRB Act. © Reproduction in whole or in part without the written permission of the Publisher is prohibited.

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